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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 2 October 2002, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Wenaweser ..... (Liechtenstein)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 100: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*) (A/57/3, 4, 135, 153, 154, 158, and Add.1; A/C.3/57/L.3-5)

Agenda item 101: International drug control (*continued*) (A/57/3, 88, 127 and 203)

1. **Ms. Pulido** (Venezuela) said that crime prevention and criminal justice were directly related to sustainable development, quality of life, democracy and respect for human rights. The international community and international organizations and agencies should work together to support developing countries' efforts to eliminate inequality at both the domestic and the global level.

2. Venezuela had signed and ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Air and Sea and had incorporated them into its domestic legislation.

3. The issue of computer security needed to be addressed multilaterally, and technical and financial cooperation were essential weapons in the fight against all forms of cyber-crime. Her Government had adopted a law against computer crime which imposed severe penalties on offenders.

4. She reaffirmed her Government's political will to combat corruption, to which end various measures had been adopted to protect public property and prevent the misappropriation of funds. The proposed United Nations convention against corruption should make clear the link between corruption and poverty. The misuse of public funds meant that valuable resources were channelled away from public services, compromising the economic and social development of certain sections of the population. Her delegation was in favour of establishing a monitoring system to prevent corruption and believed that it would be possible to eradicate that scourge only by imposing severe sanctions on those responsible.

5. International drug control was a priority for the security and defence of her country, which was alarmed at the ever-increasing economic power of criminal organizations and terrorist groups involved in drug-related crimes and the transnational nature of their activities. The first consolidated report of the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP) provided a suitable framework for assessing progress made by Member States in achieving the goals and targets agreed at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly and also took account of the obstacles encountered. Her delegation supported the initiative to hold a ministerial-level segment of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2003.

6. International cooperation was an essential part of the fight against drug trafficking, but it should respect the principles of shared responsibility and State sovereignty and target all aspects of the problem. Her delegation attached particular importance to international, bilateral and regional cooperation programmes that promoted alternative development in developing countries affected by the drug trade. In that connection, the system of customs preferences should be expanded to enable those countries to fight that scourge more effectively.

7. At the domestic level, her Government was currently amending the act on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances to adapt it to the changing characteristics of the problem. Under the national anti-drug plan for 2002-2007, the Government was attempting to address not only drug control but also prevention of drug addiction, the treatment and rehabilitation of addicts and the control of money-laundering and marketing of chemical precursors. The plan also struck a balance between drug supply and demand reduction strategies. Lastly, thanks to regional and bilateral cooperation programmes, efforts to reduce the cultivation of coca leaf in Venezuela had been successful.

8. In closing, she stressed that countries affected by the transit of drugs through their territory, particularly developing countries, needed the help of the international community to tackle the problem. She urged those countries in a position to do so to increase their contributions to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) so that it could continue providing technical and financial assistance to that end.

9. **Mr. Lobatch** (Russian Federation), welcoming the practical efforts of the relevant United Nations bodies to enhance the effectiveness of joint action and to strengthen the international legal regime for crime

prevention and drug control, said that his delegation continued to support the strengthening of the Organization's capacities for coordinating international policy in those areas. It was vital to ensure universal ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the three protocols thereto. Negotiations on a draft convention against corruption should also be pursued as a matter of urgency, with particular focus on improving asset-tracing mechanisms, preventing the transfer of illicit funds and ensuring the return of such funds to their countries of origin.

10. Recognizing that the suppression of money-laundering was one of the most effective tools for combating international crime, his Government had taken resolute measures to enhance regional cooperation to that end, in particular to combat the legalization of illicit funds. Federal legislation had been strengthened to supplement those efforts and new institutional mechanisms had been established, inter alia, for maintaining criminal databases and exchanging information with neighbouring States. Reliable mechanisms also needed to be developed at the national and international levels to address high-technology and computer-related crimes.

11. The scale of Russia's drug problem had initially been underestimated, and recent developments had necessitated decisive measures at the highest levels. A comprehensive national drug control strategy had been developed and the establishment of a high-level committee to combat trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances had been approved.

12. His Government attached great importance to enhanced international cooperation to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking and remained committed to implementing the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem. The cooperation received in that connection from the United Nations had been most useful. In that connection, the joint project to establish an international training centre in the Russian Federation promised to provide quality training for law-enforcement personnel, including personnel from other countries members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

13. As a matter of priority, the international community should develop further plans to establish "safety belts" around Afghanistan to combat the serious drug trafficking problem in border zones. In 2001, the volume of drugs seized on Afghanistan's borders with Tajikistan had been 93 times greater than the total seized in 1997. Moreover, armed clashes with border officials were frequent occurrences. The United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP) should be provided with adequate funding, including from the regular budget, to continue its assistance to the Central Asian countries in stemming the flow of drugs in the region.

14. **Mr. Neil** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that new developments in technology and the communications revolution had expanded opportunities for criminals and exacerbated the impact of drug trafficking and terrorism. The interlinked nature of those activities called for a coordinated global response which gave priority to full international cooperation in strengthening the existing legal framework at all levels. In that connection, the CARICOM countries welcomed the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols thereto and looked forward to working closely with the Centre for International Crime Prevention to ensure that those instruments were ratified.

15. The drafting of a United Nations convention against corruption would be a milestone in international efforts to formulate effective responses to a practice which threatened economic and social development. However, he wished to emphasize that such an instrument, while being universally applicable, should take into account the inherent differences among countries.

16. Unfortunately, the illicit trades in drugs and small arms continued to pose a threat to regional stability and State security in the Caribbean. In response to that challenge, CARICOM had adopted several regional and bilateral capacity-building initiatives. The CARICOM countries wished to express their appreciation for the financial and technical assistance provided by UNDCP and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to that end and looked forward to further cooperation with those bodies in the future.

17. The Caribbean region urgently needed to strengthen its strategic policy framework in the area of crime prevention and drug control. Bearing that in mind, CARICOM had recently established a Regional

Task Force on Crime and Security to implement multisectoral strategies aimed at, inter alia, strengthening law-enforcement agencies and establishing a regional rapid-response mechanism. It was also in the process of establishing a Drug Control and Prevention Commission and would be taking urgent steps to improve border controls and security systems and to strengthen regional maritime cooperation agreements. The formulation of a counter-terrorism plan of action and the forging of a pan-Caribbean partnership against drugs and small arms were also among CARICOM priorities.

18. The geophysical features and geographical location of the CARICOM member States made them particularly susceptible to illicit maritime and aeronautical trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. They were therefore pleased that a regional agreement to combat those practices had been concluded and would be opened for signature in October 2002. Many CARICOM small island member States were suffering the devastating consequences of becoming transit countries for drug trafficking, since some of the illicit drugs bound for third countries were inevitably diverted into transit countries themselves, leading to increased addiction levels, violence and crime. He urged the international community to continue to assist those States and to redouble its efforts to reduce drug supply and demand in source and destination countries. Drug demand reduction strategies were particularly critical and CARICOM called on States to give priority to the implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and stressed the importance of meeting the 2003 targets for the adoption of new strategies.

19. Success in the fight against the world drug problem was also dependent on efforts to reduce poverty and social and economic disparities and to address development concerns arising from constraints on international trade. In economically marginalized States, social dislocation, unemployment and economic stagnation were likely to fuel drug trafficking as an alternative source of income generation. In that connection, it was crucial to improve understanding of the relationship between crime, the illicit drug trade, poverty and sustainable development, since winning the battle against drugs and crime would depend largely on the ability of States and the opportunities open to them to integrate themselves in the global economy in a manner beneficial to their populations. The international community had at its disposal the tools to respond effectively to the threats posed by transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism, but the true test of its commitment was yet to come.

20. **Mr. Xie** Bohua (People's Republic of China) said that the international community was still facing a difficult task in the area of drug control, with the spread of new chemical stimulants. In addition to the continued use of traditional narcotic drugs, facilitating the development of international cartels. He urged all States to cooperate in implementing an integrated, balanced anti-drug strategy.

21. His Government had been active in its pursuit of drug dealers, traffickers and manufacturers and had incorporated drug control into its national economic and social development programme with a view to implementing an all-out ban on drugs. It had stepped up its efforts to control the production of chemical precursors, treat and rehabilitate addicts, raise awareness of the hazards of drug consumption and create drug-free communities in an attempt to reduce demand. The Government had also cooperated with neighbouring countries in drug control enforcement.

22. His delegation believed that the Political Declaration and related documents adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly were important documents which could guide in the global fight against drugs in the new century. His Government appreciated the recent achievements of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, supported the efforts of ODCCP and would continue to increase its cooperation with the relevant United Nations agencies and to make a positive contribution to international drug control.

23. **Ms. G/Mariam** (Ethiopia) said that globalization had led to the rise of transnational organized crime. Although she was encouraged by the international community's determination to combat corruption and money-laundering, much remained to be done. Corruption posed a serious threat to the stability and security of States, undermined democracy and morality and was one of the root causes of underdevelopment. National policy-making bodies, international financial institutions, the donor community and other development agencies must therefore formulate concrete action plans to address it. Winning the fight

against corruption depended on mobilizing society as a whole and on promoting a sense of shared ownership.

24. Her Government shared the view that the proposed international convention against corruption should be flexible and balanced and take into account the legal, social, cultural, economic and political differences among countries. At the national level, her Government had taken various measures to combat and eradicate corrupt practices, including the creation of a Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission and the reform of the civil service. In order to deal with the issue of money-laundering, her Government was in the process of concluding agreements on mutual legal assistance with certain East African countries.

25. Turning to the issue of drug control, she reaffirmed her country's commitment to the implementation of the various international agreements and conventions on that subject and recalled that, under its 1956 Penal Code and the 1999 Proclamation on Drug Administration and Control, drug trafficking was a criminal offence in Ethiopia. Although the country did not suffer from major drug-related problems, measures had been taken to curb the use of commercial flights for illicit trafficking, prevent the cultivation of illegal drug crops and educate young people about the dangers of drug addiction.

26. Lastly, she highlighted the link between drug-related problems and the unfair international trading system. The lack of a market for export commodities originating from poor countries such as Ethiopia directly affected the livelihood of farmers, forcing them to cultivate narcotic drug cash crops. Action to combat the world drug problem should be undertaken on the basis of shared responsibility and required the introduction of a fair international trading system and enhanced financial and technical assistance.

27. **Ms. Otiti** (Uganda) said that international cooperation was vital to countering the world's drug and crime problems. Although it was important to address underlying factors such as poverty and disease, she emphasized that while criminals always impoverished communities, poor people did not always become criminals.

28. Her Government was continuing to take steps to curb crime. As the Secretary-General had indicated in his report on strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity (A/57/153), a pilot project on judicial integrity was being tested in Uganda. Cooperation among government ministries on anti-corruption policy was also taking place. At the international level, her delegation welcomed the elaboration of good governance projects, particularly those targeting Africa and the developing world.

29. With reference to the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (A/57/135), it was encouraging that, despite major financial constraints, a number of programmes had been implemented successfully. In that connection, her delegation thanked the donor community, as well as the United Nations Centre for International Crime Prevention and the United Nations European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control for their continued assistance and cooperation.

30. Her delegation welcomed the emphasis on an action-oriented outcome for the forthcoming Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and looked forward to the adoption of a viable strategy for tackling those issues.

31. **Mr. Manalo** (Philippines) said that for the fight against transnational organized crime to be successful, adequate infrastructure and implementing mechanisms were required. International regional and legal instruments must also be bolstered with national legislation.

32. The sharing of best practices was particularly useful for combating trafficking in persons. Many developing countries were of grappling with that gross violation of human rights and were in need of technical assistance from the industrialized countries. His Government had received United Nations support for the formulation of a national action plan which sought, inter alia, to establish a national coalition against trafficking in persons that would require close coordination among the executive, legislative and judicial branches. Other measures included a special bill against trafficking in persons, training for law enforcers, prosecutors, social workers and other frontline officers and a comprehensive public awareness campaign.

33. His Government would continue to contribute to international counter-terrorism efforts. Such cooperation was required to ensure that terrorists no longer took advantage of weaknesses in international

law enforcement or judicial cooperation. It was also vital to tackle corruption, which diverted public revenues from essential social programmes.

34. Since the world drug problem could not be tackled by any single country acting alone, the international community should assume shared responsibility for addressing its root causes. It should also support programmes focusing on drug use among young people, a problem which was being exacerbated by the increase in the number of young people with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome/human immunodeficiency virus (HIV/AIDS).

35. **Mr. Vixay** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that drugs did not respect national borders and affected all parts of the world. In addition to having to combat narcotic drugs, his country, which had formerly been only a transit point for amphetamine-type stimulants and other synthetic substances, had now become a final destination for the new drugs. Drug control was therefore a top national priority.

36. His Government had taken a number of measures at the national level in pursuit of a "Drug-free ASEAN" and in implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. In the field of institution-building, the President had issued a decree establishing an Anti-Drug Control Board chaired by the Prime Minister. In the field of drug supply reduction, assistance had been received from UNDCP for the eradication of opium poppy cultivation by 2006. A 52.4-per-cent reduction in the area under poppy cultivation had been achieved in only four years. In the field of demand reduction, preventive drug education was being introduced in primary and middle schools, and community development programmes in rural areas now included drug education and the treatment and rehabilitation of addicts. In urban areas, the first UNDCP-funded drug treatment and rehabilitation centre had been opened in Vientiane, an Anti-drug Fund had been established and various public awareness-raising activities had been organized. In the field of law enforcement, the most sensitive border crossings were being targeted. Training and equipment were being made available to the national customs and drug control authorities, and bilateral meetings with the law enforcement agencies of neighbouring countries were being held on a regular basis.

37. **Mr. Popkov** (Belarus) said that his delegation actively supported the strengthening of national and international crime prevention and drug control mechanisms. The rise in international crime and the threat of terrorism called for urgent action on the part of the international community, with the United Nations playing a lead role in elaborating guiding principles and measures to combat transnational organized crime and in providing technical assistance to competent authorities at all levels. He agreed with previous speakers that the relevant United Nations bodies should be strengthened to that end.

38. Implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly was a priority for his Government. A national drug control policy had been in place since 1996 and a State programme of comprehensive measures to combat the abuse and illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for the period 2001-2005 was in the process of being implemented. Domestic legal mechanisms had also been strengthened, using the relevant international instruments as models. His Government had concluded several regional and bilateral cooperation agreements with the aim of suppressing trafficking in illicit drugs to markets in both the East and the West. Belarus was increasingly becoming not only a transit country but also a destination point for such drugs, however. The rise in domestic drug consumption had also increased the spread of HIV/AIDS. Since 1996, more than 90 per cent of new cases of the disease had occurred among intravenous drug users.

39. **Mr. Vienravi** (Thailand) said that narcotic drugs not only had an impact on health and crime, they also undermined socio-economic development and human and national security, destroying lives and communities and enslaving children and youth. The production and trafficking of such drugs was a cross-cutting problem requiring a holistic, resolute response at all levels. His delegation therefore reiterated the importance of high-level commitment and partnership to implement the outcome of the twentieth special session.

40. The spread of amphetamine-type stimulants, including Ecstasy, was of the utmost concern to his Government, as was the ease with which such drugs could be smuggled. Despite vigorous prevention and suppression efforts, trafficking of such drugs remained rampant in Thailand. In the first half of 2002, nearly 5.5 tons of methamphetamine (60 million tablets) and 13 kilograms of Ecstasy (52,011 pills) had been seized.

The war on drugs was a national priority and was being waged on all fronts, including by families and local communities. The National Drug Prevention and Suppression Strategy aimed to stem the drug problem at its roots and break the cycles of drug consumption, trade and production.

41. The Government's demand reduction strategies emphasized prevention through education and public awareness campaigns, while also providing for treatment and rehabilitation of addicts. On the supply side, law enforcement and criminal justice mechanisms against drug manufacturers and traffickers had been strengthened. Alternative development programmes had proved effective in curbing the production of illicit drug crops, but in order to ensure their sustainability the international community must help provide greater market access for the resulting products. Thailand was ready to share its alternative development experiences with other countries such as Afghanistan. It looked forward to expanded cooperation on drug trafficking and associated transnational crimes, with particular emphasis on tackling their root causes, such as poverty. To that end, development assistance and capacity-building were essential. Thailand, which was to host the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, was also waging a war against corruption and welcomed the drafting of a convention on that subject.

42. **Mr. Khrystych** (Ukraine), welcoming the technical cooperation extended to Member States by UNDCP and the Centre for International Crime Prevention (CICP), expressed the hope that such assistance would be intensified and tailored to the specific needs of countries with economies in transition. His Government was paying special attention to controlling the consumption of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and chemical precursors, focusing on preventive measures, treatment on demand for drug addicts and awareness-raising initiatives involving all State institutions. In view of the direct link between HIV/AIDS and drug abuse, enhanced international cooperation was required to prevent the further spread of the disease and to care for infected drug addicts.

43. His delegation reiterated its strong condemnation of international terrorism in all its forms. The financing of terrorism from other criminal activities, including arms smuggling, drug trafficking and money-laundering, was a particular concern to his delegation. His Government would benefit greatly from receiving technical assistance from ODCCP in bringing its national legislation into line with the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

44. Combating corruption was also high on the national agenda. His Government had made substantial efforts to improve its national capacity to fight crime and corruption, inter alia, by expanding its bilateral and multilateral cooperation in that area. It supported the elaboration of a new, internationally binding instrument on corruption.

45. His Government was also implementing a comprehensive programme to combat trafficking in persons, with the cooperation of international and non-governmental organizations. Lastly, his delegation welcomed the efforts of the international community to combat the spread of cyber-crime. Measures to combat computer terrorism should be reflected in the domestic law of all countries.

46. **Ms. Rustam** (Indonesia) said that transnational organized crime had ridden the wave of globalization and now posed a threat to the international community from which no country was immune. The United Nations should take the lead in international efforts to combat such crime. Her Government also attached importance to the negotiation of a convention against corruption, a crime which impeded development and poverty-eradication efforts.

47. Her Government was firmly committed to combating the smuggling of persons, which included not only the smuggling of migrants but also trafficking in persons. That problem could be solved only through multilateral efforts and on the basis of equality among sovereign States. The Governments of Indonesia and Australia had recently co-chaired the Regional Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, held in Bali in February 2002, which had served to complement global United Nations efforts and provided a model for future cooperation.

48. The international community should join together to save the world's children from drug addiction and the crime and violence associated with drugs. His Government had implemented measures at the national, regional and international levels to combat the illicit drug trade, including establishing a National Narcotics Board in order to strengthen its cooperation with other

countries. Technical and financial assistance was essential for countries wishing to do their part in combating the evils of transnational crime and terrorism. The tragic events of 11 September 2001 had shown that no nation was immune to the menace posed by a well-financed, well-organized transnational group bent on destruction.

49. **Mr. Dogan** (Croatia) said that, in the age of globalization, crime prevention must be considered a priority task of every Member State, both internally and through bilateral, regional and global cooperation. Croatia had recently become a member of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and was preparing to ratify the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. It was also an active participant in the negotiations on a draft convention against corruption.

50. On the domestic level, his Government had set up an office to combat corruption and organized crime and was in the process of reforming its system of justice to help it combat economic crime and corporate corruption. Corruption was a major obstacle to economic development and prosperity for developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

51. Corruption, transnational organized crime and money-laundering were often connected to terrorism. His delegation therefore welcomed the Secretary-General's report on strengthening the Terrorism Prevention Branch. It believed that the Centre for International Crime Prevention also had a very important role to play in providing technical and legislative assistance for capacity-building, particularly for developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Because narcotics trafficking was closely connected with transnational organized crime and thus with terrorism, cooperation between countries and international agencies was extremely important. His Government was therefore prepared to contribute fully to the UNDCP regional project for criminal intelligence-gathering in south-eastern Europe.

52. **Mr. Konfourou** (Mali) said that the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 had highlighted the need for increased international cooperation against terrorism. His Government had ratified all the relevant international legal instruments and had taken important steps to ensure that its territory was not used for terrorism-related purposes. It called for closer cooperation and coordination between the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the Security Council and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

53. His Government had ratified the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three protocols and was gratified that its entry into force appeared imminent. It supported efforts to draft an international convention against corruption. It urged ODCCP to extend its technical assistance programmes to other African countries, including Mali, and looked forward with great interest to the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Lastly, it commended the efforts of UNDCP to implement the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly.

54. **Mr. García González** (El Salvador) said that the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime would be an effective instrument for strengthening international cooperation to combat criminal activities, including the illicit traffic in endangered plant and animal species and in cultural artefacts. His Government had signed the three protocols to the Convention as a demonstration of its political will to support the efforts of the international community and to supplement its own legal framework in the areas concerned. The Government would be hosting the third meeting of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism early in 2003. It would also participate actively in the forthcoming session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

55. In order to combat corruption, his delegation believed that policies for its prevention and punishment, based on transparency and the concept of service, should be promoted at every level of government as an essential prerequisite for good governance, the rule of law and sustainable development. It therefore attached great importance to the negotiations on a convention against corruption. It also reiterated its full support for the collective and individual efforts of Member States to combat terrorism, as well as its support for international efforts to combat drug trafficking and related crimes. The five-year review in 2003 of the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly would provide an opportunity for the international community to strengthen its commitments in that area.

56. **Mr. Alaei** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the twentieth special session of the General Assembly had

shown that the international community had begun to view illicit drugs as a major security threat to all societies. Its outcome document was a high-level commitment which recognized the importance of striking a balance between demand reduction and supply reduction. His delegation was gravely concerned, therefore, that some Member States that were parties to the international instruments on narcotic drugs had introduced legislation aimed at decriminalizing cannabis cultivation or possession for personal use. Countries had a shared responsibility to combat the world drug problem. In order to be truly effective in bringing about a decrease in drug consumption and supply, mutual confidence, solidarity and assistance were needed, with full respect for domestic and international law.

57. Iran was becoming increasingly vulnerable to the illicit drug trade and to the transit of narcotics from Afghanistan. In an attempt to strike a balance between prevention, treatment and law enforcement, his Government had made demand reduction as important as supply reduction, paying special attention to prevention programmes targeting young people and other high-risk groups.

58. Over 3,000 Iranian police officers had lost their lives in the fight against narcotics trafficking. His Government was spending more than $2 billion a year on that fight, money that could otherwise have been spent on education. In order to avoid the recycling of drug profits, money-laundering had also been criminalized. The Government had adopted a National Drug Control Programme and was developing a drug control strategy. All national drug-related issues were coordinated in the Drug Control Headquarters, headed by the President.

59. The production, sale and illicit distribution of narcotics were showing an increasing tendency towards globalization, requiring the adoption of carefully defined joint strategies to combat them. The role of the United Nations, through its various programmes and agencies, especially the UNDCP, should be given well-deserved recognition.

60. **Mr. Kadiri** (Morocco) said that his delegation welcomed the proposals for strengthening the Terrorism Prevention Branch and supported the allocation of sufficient resources for it to carry out its programme of work. His Government had recently ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and urged other countries to do so. His delegation welcomed the progress made in the preparations for the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and believed that the workshop topics should reflect the international community's current pressing concerns with regard to combating terrorism and transnational organized crime.

61. The Ad Hoc Committee for the negotiation of a convention against corruption had completed its first reading of the draft convention. His delegation agreed that the text of the convention should be flexible and balanced, taking into account the legal, social, cultural, economic and political differences among countries. It looked forward to the signing conference planned for 2003. It also supported the activities of the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in providing valuable assistance to the African countries in combating transnational economic crime, a problem which hampered their development.

62. At the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, his delegation had stated its firm commitment to the eradication of cannabis crops through alternative development projects. The Government had reviewed and strengthened its legal arsenal against the cultivation and trafficking of narcotic drugs. It had set up various national anti-drug bodies and had acceded to the three major United Nations conventions in that area, in addition to a number of bilateral agreements. The International Narcotics Control Board had recognized in its 2001 report the Government's efforts to strengthen its legal framework and step up its drug law enforcement activities.

63. **Mr. Al-Enezi** (Kuwait) said that terrorism should not be linked to any religion, nationality or origin. It was the result of many factors and only a concerted, comprehensive international effort, under United Nations auspices, could uproot it.

64. He noted that most instruments related to terrorism lacked a mechanism for verifying compliance. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), his Government had implemented several measures including promulgating legislation against money-laundering and taking practical steps to monitor charitable donations to ensure that they were not used for illicit purposes. It had also provided the Counter-

Terrorism Committee with comprehensive information on its counter-terrorism legislation.

65. With regard to the fight against drugs, his Government had promulgated several laws to counter the trafficking and use of narcotic drugs. Kuwaiti legislation did not consider the drug user as a criminal but as someone who was ill. A national anti-drug committee had been set up in 1989 which coordinated public anti-drug efforts and worked to increase public awareness of the drug problem. Literary, artistic and sports celebrities had participated in its public awareness campaigns, and it also financed leisure and recreation activities for young people. Public welfare associations had also conducted intensive advertising campaigns that explained the destructive effects of drugs.

66. His Government had ratified the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. It believed that aid should be provided to countries whose farmers cultivated opium poppy and cannabis, so that they could be helped to grow alternative crops. Drug trafficking must be severely restricted and controlled through internationally recognized organizations, and rehabilitation programmes must be provided for addicts to facilitate their social reintegration.

67. **Mr. Youri Emmanuel** (Haiti) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by Jamaica on behalf of the CARICOM countries. The drug problem threatened public health and safety and the political and economic stability of many countries, including his own. In an effort to fulfil the commitments made at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly and at the Millennium Summit, his Government had taken a series of political, administrative and legislative measures, including the establishment of a national anti-drug commission. The launch of its national anti-drug strategy was planned for May 2003.

68. Haiti was participating in the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission. It was aware of the need to strengthen its anti-drug institutions, however, and required both technical and financial support from the international community in that area. Poverty and unemployment were both causes and consequences of illicit drug trafficking and the link between combating poverty and combating drug trafficking must be recognized.

69. In its efforts to counter transnational organized crime, his Government was conducting a thorough overhaul of its judicial system, under a joint technical assistance programme with UNDP. The programme was designed to tackle the problem of impunity and guarantee effective protection and true equality before the law for all Haiti's citizens.

70. **Mr. Naidu** (Fiji), speaking on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum Group, said that the best way of countering the threats to the Pacific region posed by transnational organized crime and new security challenges was regional cooperation in developing and strengthening security and law enforcement arrangements. In that connection, the Pacific Island States had set up domestic financial intelligence units and combined law agency groups to enhance cooperation, provide training and share information. The pooling of resources would maximize returns.

71. The Pacific Islands Forum leaders, meeting in Fiji in August 2002, had adopted the Nasonini Declaration on Regional Security, in which they expressed concern about the heightened threat to global security following the events of 11 September 2001, recognized the need for immediate and sustained regional action in response to that threat, recalled their commitment to good governance and to the implementation of internationally agreed anti-terrorism measures, acknowledged that further efforts should be made fully to implement relevant legislation under the 1992 Honiara Declaration by the end of 2003 and stressed that law enforcement cooperation, backed by a strong common legislative base, should remain an important focus for the region.

72. He reassured the Committee that the Pacific Islands Forum Group took its responsibilities in the area of crime prevention and drug control very seriously. His Government would welcome additional technical assistance and cooperation, which would lend added value to regional initiatives.

73. **Mr. Valdivieso** (Colombia) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by Costa Rica on behalf of the Rio Group. His Government had reaffirmed in many forums the principle of shared responsibility for combating illicit drugs and transnational organized crime. In that context, international cooperation had become an

imperative rather than an option. His delegation was currently chairing the negotiations on a convention against corruption and expected that work would be completed by the end of 2003.

74. His delegation attached great importance to the review to be conducted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the progress achieved and the difficulties encountered in the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. Drug production and trafficking, and related crimes such as money-laundering and arms trafficking, undermined development and poverty-eradication efforts and imposed huge economic and social costs on governments. They also threatened political systems, democratic institutions, national security and State sovereignty and stability. Unless States took concerted action, all democracies would be at risk.

75. His Government was implementing a comprehensive anti-drug policy that included efforts to prevent consumption and efforts to reduce supply. It was pursuing two complementary strategies to eradicate illicit crops: alternative development and intensified eradication. The alternative development strategy targeted small, individual producers whose crops were sold to intermediaries, and the Government had invested over $132 million in alternative development programmes over the past four years. It would be naive to believe that all illicit crops could be eradicated through alternative development however, and the Government was using aerial fumigation to eradicate large-scale, "industrial" crops financed directly by drug organizations operating on a commercial basis.

76. Within the Andean Community, Colombia shared the view that alternative development and crop eradication policies must be coordinated, but it also called for a genuinely balanced approach in international cooperation to the region so that support was given to both alternative development and law enforcement and interdiction. Unfortunately, no effort to counter drugs and violence would succeed as long as arms, ammunition and explosives to commit terrorist acts and inputs and chemical precursors to produce drugs continued to enter the region illegally. International cooperation in both the technical and the political sphere was needed to respond to that problem, with strong national policies coordinated into joint international efforts.

77. **Mr. Zeidan** (Lebanon), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that his delegation had not been surprised that the representative of Israel had taken advantage of the opportunity to politicize the Committee's discussions. His Government had declared 2002 the year of the irreversible elimination of drug cultivation in Lebanon, through a campaign for the total eradication of cannabis and opium poppy crops. In 1993, following the chaos of the civil war, the authorities had begun a crackdown on drug cultivation. By 2001, the results of their efforts had begun to be acknowledged, including by the United States Department of State. In 2002, Indian hemp eradication had been truly systematic for the first time since its cultivation began in Lebanon in 1930. The crackdown had severely affected farmers, who had lost some $450 million in potential income.

78. His Government could not continue those efforts alone, and donor countries must take responsibility for their reluctance to support alternative development projects in the Bekaa Valley, where the bulk of Indian hemp was grown. It was with the full knowledge of the Israeli army that drug smuggling had taken place during Israel's 22-year occupation of south Lebanon, and the money generated had been used to fund the South Lebanon Army, Israel's surrogate army.

79. Currently, his Government was trying to provide irrigation water to south Lebanon to benefit farmers, but Israel had met those development initiatives with further threats of bombing, thereby hindering his Government's efforts to normalize living conditions for the Lebanese population in that region.

80. The Israeli representative's suggestion that Hezbollah was implicated in smuggling drugs to so-called Palestinian "terrorist" groups was pure provocation. Delegations should be very careful about making such statements without solid evidence. It was Hezbollah's resistance that had forced Israel to withdraw from most Lebanese soil, and the Israeli representative's false accusations simply reflected resentment on the part of Israel and a blatant attempt to politicize the Committee's work.

81. **The Chairman** informed members that the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the Terrorism Prevention Branch (A/57/152) would also be submitted to the Fifth Committee for consideration.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.